

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 233526

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, SF

SUBJECT: MOTION PICTURES - SOUTH AFRICAN REQUIREMENT TO
PROVE U.S. NATIONALITY AND COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION OF
COPYRIGHT OWNERS

REF: (A) PRETORIA 4613; (B) PRETORIA 4531

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. REFTEL A - (I) FBI EXPLAINED THAT "MASSIVE SWEEP IN
U.S. LAST WEEK" REFERS TO SEARCH WARRANTS WHICH WERE
SERVED OCTOBER 2 AND 10 ON FILM STORES AND REPRODUCTION
LABS IN LOS ANGELES AND SURROUNDING AREA. EQUIPMENT AND
4,000 REELS OF UNAUTHORIZED PRINTS THAT WERE BEING
PREPARED FOR SHIPMENT TO JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA WERE
CONFISCATED. NO ARRESTS WERE MADE.

(II) REGARDING AMENDMENT TO U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW, NO
AMENDMENT HAS BEEN PASSED WHICH LEGISLATES CRIMINAL
PENALTIES FOR MOTION PICTURE INFRINGEMENT. DEPARTMENT
BELIEVES THIS REFERENCE IS TO S.1361, WHICH IS A BILL
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FOR THE GENERAL REVISION OF THE COPYRIGHT LAW, TITLE 17

OF THE U.S. CODE THAT PASSED THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 9
THIS YEAR. ALTHOUGH THIS GENERAL REVISION BILL DOES
CONTAIN AN AMENDMENT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL PENALTIES
FOR MOTION PICTURE INFRINGEMENT, THE BILL IS NOT EXPECTED

TO PASS THE HOUSE DURING THE PRESENT CONGRESS. NO
FURTHER ACTION IS EXPECTED ON THIS LEGISLATION UNTIL
THE NEW SESSION OF CONGRESS IN 1975.

2. REFTEL B - (I) DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH EMBASSY
POSITION THAT IT IS PREFERABLE TO MEET WITH KRIEL PRIOR
TO APPROACH WITH SAG ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(II) DEPARTMENT AND U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE ARE PRESENTLY
REVIEWING SEGAL LETTER AS REQUESTED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY
URGENTLY REPORTING OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS WITH KRIEL AND
SAG ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR USE IN REPLY TO MPEAA WHEHTER
PROPOSED DOCUMENTATION WILL SATISFY REQUIREMENTS TO
CONTINUE THIS CASE. INGERSOLL

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